

**Hon Ministers of State,  
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education  
and Sports, Directors and Commissioners,  
The Chairperson, Uganda National Examinations  
Board,  
Members of the UNEB Board present,  
The Executive Secretary, Uganda National  
Examinations Board and senior staff of UNEB  
Members of the Press,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am happy to be here today as we release the results of the 2019 Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) examination, the third one that UNEB administers. It is gratifying to note that this examination, like the first two, PLE and UCE, was conducted smoothly. Indeed, Chairperson, your Board has fully and properly accounted to the nation. I thank you, the members of the Board, Management and staff of UNEB.

I note with satisfaction the continued and increased use of ICT in the operations of the Board. This is in line with the NRM Manifesto 2016-2021 which recognizes ICT as one of the key drivers of efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. Because of this use of ICT, you are able to produce results consistently, and on time despite the annual increases in candidature.

I congratulate UNEB on the well-deserved award from the National Information Technology Authority Uganda (NITA-U). This is no doubt a statement of recognition of your efforts in embracing e-services.

The timely release of results allows sufficient time for tertiary institutions to plan for their selections and enables parents and candidates themselves to make decisions on other options.

At the PLE and UCE levels we noticed the increased candidature of girls compared to that of the boys. At this level, however, the gap is still quite wide. Given the alternative opportunities available to the girls after UCE, it is my firm belief that the gap does not represent drop-out of girls. The numbers in Nurses and Midwives training institutions; and in Primary Teachers Colleges and other vocational institutions attest to the fact that the girls who did not go for the UACE studies indeed took those other career paths. For example, 11,742 of the girls in this cohort are completing certificate courses in Nursing and Midwifery.

I am happy to note that, performance has improved and more learners have qualified for tertiary education. The fact that more learners can transit to the next level means that there is more efficiency in the education system. This leads to less wastage of resources invested in the Sector.

I am, however, concerned about the very low transition from UCE to UACE in the Sciences. I am even more concerned about the very low number of girls in the Sciences. Regrettably, this is happening despite the fact that Government, through the Ministry of Education and Sports, has invested heavily in provision of teaching and learning materials and laboratories. Deliberate efforts have been made to increase the number of science teachers and improve their welfare in order to raise the numbers of students in Sciences and improve performance.

I learnt in 2016 that part of the low numbers of students taking Sciences could be attributed to the very stringent selection criteria by schools, that is, of admitting only students with distinction scores at UCE. I then appealed to schools to relax this unrealistic demand because a person with a Credit 3 or 4 at UCE should be able to comfortably study a Science subject at UACE.

I want to reiterate that appeal now, because Mathematics and Sciences are at the heart of industrial development, which is crucial for taking our country to modernity.

Many parents and candidates themselves will most likely be aiming for University education. This is indeed a commendable goal. However, I wish to encourage the candidates to take up vocational education at diploma and other levels in our TVET Institutions. Products of this level of training are not only the most needed in Industry but are often job creators rather than job seekers.

I congratulate all the successful candidates and thank the teachers who prepared them. I encourage those, who have not made the mark for their desired courses not to give up. There is always another chance to succeed.

**It is now my pleasure to release the results of the 2019 Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education for public use.**

***Thank you and God bless you!***